

Blanco Ranger
District
220 E Market Street
Meeker, CO 81641



United States Department of Agriculture



NORTH ELK TRAIL # 1835

Difficulty: Moderate

Trail Use: Light

Length: 4.3 miles

Elevation: Starts at 9,280 feet and ends at 7,323 feet (highest point 9,280 feet)

Elevation Gain: +33 feet – 1,990 feet = -1,957 feet

Open To: HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING (**From 6/15—8/31 only, open to ATVs with a 50" OR LESS WHEELBASE**)

Access:

- The North Elk Trail is located 32 miles southeast of Meeker.
- From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile.
- Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 20 miles.
- Turn south on the Buford-New Castle Road (RBC Rd 17 to forest boundary, then FDR 245) for 11 miles to the North Elk Trail.
- The trail may be difficult to find as there is not a trailhead information board.

Trail Highlights:

The trail follows the east fork of North Elk through aspen and oakbrush covered hillsides for about 2 miles to the junction of the middle fork and the east fork of North Elk Creek. It then follows the main fork 1.3 miles down to the Hamilton Cow Camp near the confluence of the main and west fork of North Fork. The last mile follows an old road through the meadows in the bottom of the creek until it reaches private property. The North Elk Trail provides access into the North Elk drainage for fishing and hunting. The trail is very rough and narrow.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS:

- **Cattle:** May be grazing in the area
- **DOGS:** Possessing a dog or other animal that is harassing wildlife or people or damaging property is prohibited. There is no leash law in the Flat Tops, however dogs must be kept under verbal control at all times.
- **TRASH: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT** -- even biodegradable items like fruit peels!
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals or less
- **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from trails and water and 6 inches in the soil or pack it out along with toilet paper.

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not renewable resources. Any careless act upsets this natural balance and destroys the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following Wilderness ethics and regulations you can protect and preserve the natural qualities of the Wilderness for future visits. **PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS**

